

Sunday February 26, 2023

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? ³ My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” ⁴ These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng. ⁵ Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.” (Psalm 42:1-5, NIV)

Let us pray.... Dear Lord, our soul pants for you this morning. We long to be in your presence. We long to worship you with others in person but today we can't, despite all our good intentions and so we come to you by ourselves this morning or with our family around us. We need you. We need you like we need our food and drink. We need your presence, your forgiveness, your love, your grace, your help and power. So give us more of you today. Let us see more of your glory as we sing our songs. Let us hear more your character as we listen to your word. Let us experience more of your goodness as we pray. And draw us closer to your people as we sing the same song, pray the same prayers, listen to the same sermon, even if we are in different locations today. Help us this day to truly worship you in spirit and in truth. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song – Only a Holy God

[Only A Holy God- City Alight - YouTube](#)

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| <p>1. Who else commands all the hosts of heaven
Who else could make every king bow down
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles
Only a Holy God
What other beauty demands such praises
What other splendour outshines the sun
What other majesty rules with justice
Only a Holy God</p> | <p>3. Who else could rescue me from my failing
Who else would offer His only Son
Who else invites me to call Him Father
Only a Holy God
Only my Holy God!</p> |
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*Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God*

2. What other glory consumes like fire
What other power can raise the dead
What other name remains undefeated
Only a Holy God
Come and behold Him
The One and the Only
Cry out, sing holy
Forever a Holy God
Come and worship the Holy God

Bible Reading – Luke 15:1-10 (NIV)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. ⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins^[a] and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Announcements 26/2/23

Focus for February – Vision. Our aim this year is to “Preach the Kingdom of God boldly and without hindrance” (Acts 28:31). Our desire is to unify around the growth of the Kingdom of God and to ensure we are not working against what God wants to be done in this place. Our hope is that this gives us a sense of purpose where we can all find what our part to play is and then prayerfully rely on Him to do it through us.

Small Groups. We have had a number of new people come to our Church in the last few months. One way to get to know others is by joining a small group. We have small groups at night and during the day, weekly or fortnight, men, women and mixed, young and old. You are sure to find a group that will suit you. Just speak to Jon or Stephen or one of the elders.

Children’s Worker (approx. 8-10 hours a week). We are currently looking for a person who is willing to be our Children’s Worker from term 2, 2023. This is a paid position and is for 10 hours a week. It will involve overseeing our kids work, training our children’s volunteers, and helping, supporting and encouraging those who are involved in these ministries. For a full job description and for details of our remuneration package see Jon or Stephen. Applications close 1/3/23.

World Day of Prayer. Will be held this year on Friday 3rd March. It has been prepared by the women of Taiwan and the theme is “I have heard about your faith.” At Swansea it will be at the Caves Beach Uniting Church from 11am. All welcome.

Swansea SRE. Is there anyone interested in the work of SRE in our local schools? If so, there is a BBQ at Swansea Baptist Sun 5th March @ 5pm to discuss the work of SRE in 2023. See Stephen for more details.

Upcoming Dates

- Lords Supper at all three services on Sunday 12th March.
- Kids Church Training – Sunday 19th March. More details to come
- Ladies Event – Saturday 25th March
- Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday 26th March from 11:30am
- Family Fun Day – Sunday 2nd April

Camp Weekend. We’ve had a tremendous response to our Camp over the weekend of March 3-5th. For those who are unable to join us we’ll be running all three services at their regular time. We’ll be a bit short staffed so if you can help out in either the morning service or at Sunday @ 6, please see Stephen or Jon.

Church Soccer. If you are interested in playing and would like to commit to our church’s soccer team, we would love to have you. We love having inviting our friends into our teams so feel free to invite a friend. Soccer is played each Saturday from April until the end of August. For more information or to participate, contact Cheryl G on 0438 527 307.

Kids Talks. If anyone would like to be on the roster to do a kids talk about once every two months, could you please see Jon.

Day Off. Our ministers are always available in an emergency but Jon tends to take Thursdays off and Stephen Saturday so if you could avoid contacting them on those days, they would appreciate it.

Church Bank Account. If you would like to support our Church financially, the best way is to prayerfully decide what amount you are going to give each week and then organise a regular direct debit to Charlestown Presbyterian BSB 062 829 - A/C 1019 4850.

Bible Reading – Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Pastoral Prayer Points

Pray for our nation: Pray for more Australians to be alert, engaged, and wise in political matters. Pray that political issues wouldn’t divide the church, but we would be united to speak up to defend the most vulnerable from abortion and euthanasia.

Pray for South Africa: Pray for reconciliation among all races. Pray for healing, hope, and support for those affected by HIV/AIDS. Pray for missionaries who invite slum-dwellers to become sons and daughters of the King.

Pray for the sick and suffering: Pray the Lord would have mercy on them. Pray the eternal God would be their refuge. Pray God’s would shine on them and give them strength.

Steven and Sandra Parsons (CMS, Japan). Several family-related matters require Steven and Sandra to remain in Australia. With approval and wonderful support of CMS and TEAM, they will finish home assignment in February and return to their Japan responsibilities while serving remotely from Australia for the short term. Steven will fly to Japan on 24th February for a month so he can prepare to serve from Sydney. Sandra’s responsibilities in Japan are not as easy to cover from afar. Please pray for peace as Sandra grieves and determines what her role will entail during the time she’ll be serving from Australia. This decision hasn’t been an easy one. Both are grieving in not being able to return “home” to Japan as planned.

Song – O Breathe of Life

[O Breath Of Life - YouTube](#)

1. O Breath of life, come sweeping through
us,
Revive Your church with life and power.
O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
And fit Your church to meet this hour.

Chorus: O Breath of love, come breathe
within,
Renewing thought and will and heart;
Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win,
Revive Your church in every part.

2. O Wind of God, come bend us, break us,
Till humbly we confess our need;
Then in Your tenderness remake us,
Revive, restore, for this we plead.

Chorus

3. Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
While harvest fields are vast and ripe?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
Equip Your church to spread the light.

Chorus

Sermon – Prodigal God - Stephen T

During a conference in Britain about different world religions, experts from around the globe debated what belief, if any, was there that was unique to the Christian faith. They started thinking about answers and one by one these answers were eliminated. God becoming man? No many religions had myths about God coming in a human form. The resurrection? Once again other religions had stories of people coming back from the dead. The 10 commandments? No those rules, although not in the same form, are found all over the world.

As these experts were scratching their heads, the Christian writer C.S. Lewis walked into the room. What's all this rumpus about he asked innocently? When he was told what the debate was all about, Lewis, said "Oh that easy. It's grace."

After some discussion the delegates to the conference had to agree. The notion that God's love comes to us free of charge, no strings attached, seems to go against every instinct of humanity. The Muslims have their law, the Buddhist the eight-fold path, the Hindu believe in karma, the Jews the covenant, the typical Aussie wants to live the good life. Each has to earn God's favour. Only Christianity has dared to make God's love unconditional.

You see the thing that makes the Christian belief different to everything else is grace, amazing grace. You see where all other religions say you have to DO something to earn your way into heaven, the Christian knows that they are saved because of what Christ has DONE for them. The only way I can possibly receive God's favour is if he graciously gives it to me, free, gratis, for nothing, no strings attached. And this is the main point of the greatest of all of Jesus parables, the Parable of the Lost Son.

And I want to look at this great story from three different perspectives – from the perspective of the younger son, the older son and the father. Let's look firstly at

Slide 2

1. The Younger Son. (Verses 11-21)

"There was a man who had two sons.¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

Now let's stop there for a moment because that is a shocking way to start a story. The younger one wants his father to give him what will be owed to him when his dad dies. What a terrible thing to ask. Do you know anyone that has done that in your family, in your circle of friends? Who has gone up to their mum, their dad and said look you owe me big time. I don't want to be around you any more, in fact I wish you

were dead! And so, give me now, what you would give me if you were to die today. It's a terrible thing to say.

And I can well imagine that the father would say, *"Yes, I will give you what you deserve, a clip around the ear! Get out of here! How dare you want my things without wanting me? How dare you want my money and don't want my love & my presence."* I think the father would be well in his rights to do just that. But this father doesn't do that. He gives his son what he wants. He divided his property between them & in those days that meant the oldest got a double portion of the inheritance so he got 2/3 of the property & the younger one got 1/3.

But to do that means the father has lost everything. Not only does he lose the 1/3 that goes to the younger brother. But the father loses his the other 2/3 of the estate because it all goes to the older brother. The father now effectively owns nothing. And in that culture if you lost your land, you lost your status. And if you are a land owner and you lose your land you lose your identity. My father-in-law has lived on the one property all of his life and he says if he was to lose his land, you might as well take him out in a box. His land is his life.

And the younger son has asked his father to tear his life apart, to tear his identity apart, to tear himself apart. And the father is willing to do that for his son. Amazing.

Meanwhile the younger son spends his money on wine, women and song. Until there is nothing left. And he finds that all the people who used to hang around him who liked him for what he possessed now don't like him because he doesn't possess anything anymore. He finds out that by taking the money and spending it on himself, he surrounded himself with takers not givers. He is treated in a similar way to the way that he has treated his father.

Slide 3

So, what does he do next? *"He went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything".* He took a job that was a real no, no, for him. Jews didn't have anything to do with pigs, they were unclean. God's OT laws told them that. But here is he handling them every day, even eating pig food & if you know anything about pigs, they will eat anything. So, eating this food is the lowest of the low.

Slide 4

But he comes up with a plan. *"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'*

He will go home. For home is not just a place, it is a relationship. And he needs both a place and a relationship right now. He needs his father's fellowship and he needs his father's forgiveness. But he doesn't want to go home as a son, nor as a slave but as a hired hand. Now it is important to understand the difference here. A son is an heir, he has a special relationship with the father but the younger son has destroyed that relationship. There is no chance of being a son again. A slave lives on the property & works the property but he doesn't ask his dad to make him a slave. He wants to be a hired servant.

Someone who lives in town, who works for the father and is paid a wage. The younger son wants to pay his father back. He wants to make up for what he has done. He wants to be given a chance to fix it all up. He wants to earn the right to come back to the family.

Now if I were the father, that's exactly what I would want him to do. To prove himself worthy. To pay back what he owed me. I can imagine crossing my arms and saying I am so hurt. I am so disappointed in you that

I can no longer trust you. I might forgive you into the future but you have to prove yourself. And that is going to take a very long, long time.

Slide 5

But the father in the story is not like me. *“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him”*. Fathers in those days didn’t run. Kids ran. Youths ran, sometimes women ran but not fathers. But this father does run. But he does more than that. He restores the younger son. He puts the family ring on his finger, gives him his own sandals for his feet. He throws a party. He celebrates. He doesn’t give him what he deserves, he gives him grace.

Now this is a parable, a picture of God’s Kingdom. And it tells us that some people are like the younger son. They want the things of the father but not the father himself. They want God’s gifts but don’t want the giver of those gifts. They want them but don’t want Him. So they chase after wine, women and song or they chase after family, work, homes, health, independence because they think that is where they will find happiness. But if you go down that road you find loneliness, and disappointment. For that lifestyle just doesn’t satisfy.

Slide 6

I remember reading as a youngster the story of Pat Cash, the Australian tennis champion, all he wanted to do was be number 1 in the world. And then he goes out and wins Wimbledon the biggest tournament in the world and the next day he wakes up and asks himself, is that all there is? There has to be more. Success for him just didn’t satisfy.

Slide 7

And these younger brothers sometimes come to their senses and come back to God and want to earn their way back to him and God says no you are not doing it on your terms but on mine. And I will restore you by my Grace not by your works. Yes, you are not worthy. But I am willing to forgive you. I am willing to restore you. I am willing to share my joy over you. You can become my son, my daughter again. Because of my grace.

Great story, eh? If you are like the younger son & have walked away from the father. It might have been that you made a hash of your life but he will not treat you as you deserve. He will give you his grace, his amazing grace. So come home, come home. Don’t delay. Don’t stay away from Him. Don’t fill yourself with the things of this world, they just don’t satisfy. Come back to God. It will bring you much happiness & it will bring God even more happiness! But our parable doesn’t end there because there is a 2nd character in our story

Slide 8

2. The Older Son (verses 25-30)

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’” The older brother became angry and refused to go in.”

There is a new conflict arising in the story. It was obvious that the younger son had a problem with the father. He’s gone and made a hash of his life. But the older son has also got a problem with the father. He looked like the model son. He has stayed at home, worked hard, been loyal but he has the same problem as his brother. He now doesn’t want to be a part of the family. He doesn’t want to come in and join the celebration.

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²⁹“But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son

of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!”

Notice what he is saying. He doesn't talk about his brother. He doesn't call him a son. He says this son of yours. He is now divorcing himself from the family. But it's more than this. He too wants the father's things rather than wanting the father's heart. In this midst of this great day, this great celebration, the return of the prodigal son, he will not join him. Because the father has killed the fattened calf for his brother. But that is now his property. That is now his inheritance. The older son may not have travelled to a far country but his heart has been living in that far country. His heart is still far away from the father.

For he can't see the joy of having the younger son return, like the father can. He can't see the need for forgiveness, like the father can. He doesn't want to show him any grace, like the father does. Despite living with the father all these years, he is nothing like his father. He wants the father's things but he doesn't want to be like the father. You see some people rebel in open defiance, while others rebel in a much more secret way.

Slide 10

But how does the father respond? Again, he comes out to his son. Again, he takes the initiative and does something fathers of that day would never do. For he loves both of his sons equally and he wants both of his sons at this celebration. *“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”*

So, will the older son come into the feast? Will he share in his father's joy, his father's happiness? We are not told. We are left wondering. Actually, it's more than that. We suddenly realise that now it is the older son who is lost.

Slide 11

Why isn't he coming into the feast? He tells us in verse 29. *‘Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders.’* What is stopping him? His obedience! His righteousness. The younger son goes away from the father through disobedience, the older son through obedience. The younger son wants to get control of the father's things by doing his own thing and the older son wants to get control of the father's things by doing the right thing. Both are alienated from the father, both are lost, both wants the gifts not the giver!

Slide 12

Friends we can be lost because of our goodness and because of our badness. We can be far away from our heavenly father's heart by rebelling and by staying. By being bad and by being good. Because the key thing is not what we do but the relationship we have with the father. Maybe you have lived a good life, a respectable life, a successful life. You have gone to Church, you have worked hard, you have been a good spouse, a good parent and you think that is good enough for God. Well, it's not. You must want the father, not just the father's things. You must have a relationship with the father not just live a good life.

Sometimes what we really want is blessing, is eternal life, not a relationship with God. And so we use religion, we will use church, we will use morality to try and earn what we want. Jesus then can be our guide, our model, our friend but he is not our Saviour. We are our own Saviour. And if that is you, you are still lost. Because it is not about getting the father's things that are important, it is getting the father Himself. And that is a gift of grace. Given to us from God. Offered to us whether we seem far away from God or near to God.

Friends, it is not about being good or bad, about being moral or immoral, about being religious or not religious. It is about our relationship with the father. It is not about wanting what he can give us life, forgiveness, blessing, it is about wanting a relationship with Him.

How do we do that? Well let's look back at the parable. Three things. Firstly, we need to realise that God will take the initiative. Notice how God takes the initiative for both his sons. He runs to the younger son, threw his arms around him and kissed him, despite what he has done. And he goes out to the older son and pleads with him despite the fact that he is refusing to come to the family gathering. God takes the initiative. Before you come to him, God has already come to you. He has sent his Son Jesus to die for you. He has sent his Holy Spirit into your heart. We will never seek the father before he has firstly sought us out.

Secondly, we need to repent of our sins & our goodness. Like the younger son when we do the wrong thing we need to turn around come back & say sorry to God. But like the older son we need to repent of our goodness. Often, we have been good for the wrong reason. To prove ourselves to God or to get things from his hands. But even our good acts are tainted by our selfishness, greed, & independence. We need to repent of our sins & our goodness.

And lastly, we need to make sure that at the centre of our lives is not God's things but God Himself. We need to make sure our emphasis is not on things, on homes, families, money, career, blessings but on the one who has given us those things. We need to want what's in the father's heart rather than that what is in the father's hand. And what is in the father's heart? The lost. Others who are far away from the love of the father.

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3. The Gracious Father (Verses 22-24, 31-32)

You see this parable is one of three parables in Luke 15. And each show God's care for the lost. In the parable of the lost sheep. He has 100 sheep. One is lost and the other 99 are safe. Most of the sheep are safe but one has wandered away either on purpose or by mistake. And the shepherd God seeks out the lost sheep. He will go to any lengths to find the one who has gone astray. He is even willing to leave the 99 who are safe, in order to find the one who is lost. God truly has a heart for those who have wandered astray.

Slide 15

But in the parable of the lost coins, the woman has 10 coins. One lost and the other 9 are safe. And the coin once it has become lost can't do anything about it. It can't move. It can't find its way back to safety. It is totally dependent upon the woman. So, the woman mirrors God and turns the house upside down until she finds the lost coin. The woman shows great joy, even throwing a party when the lost coin has been found.

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And in the parable of the lost son or is it the parable of the lost sons there are two sons that are lost. And once again the Father does whatever it takes to bring them home. He is willing to run, to plead, to forgive, to restore, to kill the fatted lamb, no expense will be spared to bring back the lost. So what is in God's heart? The lost, he wants to bring the lost back home

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And we know that because Jesus shows us the heart of our heavenly Father. He left his home in heaven, he came to this earth, he searched for those who were lost and he ended up dying on the cross for them, in order to bring them home. He gave up everything, he made a costly sacrifice, he gave his own life, in order to show us all God's grace.

The cost of God's grace, the cost of bringing us home falls not on us but on him. We are restored, we are forgiven, we enter the feast of our Father freely. Graciously. At no cost. Because God Himself was willing to pay the cost. The massive cost of the death of his son. Of Jesus being separated from the father in order to bring us back home. What is in God's heart? The lost is in his heart. And he will go to any lengths to bring us home.

Friends, aren't you drawn to such a heart? Aren't you overcome with thanks and gratitude? And don't you want to have that sort of a heart for others? Look around you there are lost people all around you. Good people who are lost. Others who have mucked up their lives. And God is offering them his grace. Shouldn't we want to share that grace with them?

For we were once lost but now have been found. We once wanted God's things rather than wanting God Himself. But Jesus today has taught us something new from an old, old story. He has told us that God's grace has been made available to us. That God has come to us this day pleading with us to come home. And that he wants us to not just do that, but to become more like him and reach out to others who are currently far from home.

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For do you know who should have reached out to the lost younger brother? Anyone in Jesus time would have known. The inheritance is now the responsibility of the elder son. He is now the head of the family. He is now the one who should have left the family home and travelled to the far country and sought to bring him home. He was the one who should have borne the expense of time or effort of money to bring the wayward son home.

But he didn't. Because he didn't have the heart of the father. Friends do you have the heart of the father. Are you willing to show the people around you grace? Are you willing to leave your comforts, your current lifestyle to ensure that the lost are found? Our older brother Jesus did that for us. What are you willing to do for Him in return?

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I read recently the story about a woman who married a non-Christian husband & he turned out to be a bad husband & she graciously endured him for over 20 years. And she was highly regarded in the Church because whenever the doors were open, she was always there, serving others. She remained faithful to him, even when he wasn't always faithful to her but one day the husband was converted, he trusted in Christ, he became a Christian & the Church congregation rejoiced. This younger son had returned from a foreign land. He had been a recipient of God's grace. It was an amazing work of God. Then something interesting happened to that woman. She couldn't forgive him. She ended up leaving him and the faith.

Why because she didn't understand grace. That we are all saved by grace. The good, the bad & the ugly all need God's grace. I need God's grace and so do you. Do you know that? Have you trusted in that? And are you willing to share that with the people you meet this week?

Song – Amazing Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0gLntLIBYw>

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|---|---|
| <p>1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see</p> | <p>3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
This grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home</p> |
| <p>2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed</p> | <p>4. When we've been here ten thousand years
Bright, shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun</p> |
| | <p>5. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see</p> |

Closing.

“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”
(Luke 15:31-32)